

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 79ISLAMA010260

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ID-14 ADS-00 SR-04 HA-05
SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 RP-07 H-01 L-03 PA-01 PM-06
/102 W

-----06055 120932Z /23/17

R 100730Z SEP 79
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4770
USMISSION GENEVA
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE POUCH
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR POUCH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USUN NEW YORK 1837
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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GENEVA FOR UNHCR

F.D. 12065: GDS 9/10/85 (SHERMAN, R.) OR-P
TAGS: SREF PEPR PK AF UN
SUBJECT: (U) UNHCR TEAM DEBRIEFING

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 9860 (B) ISLAMABAD 10014 (C) GENEVA
14632 (NOTAL)

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT. THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE.
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2. UNHCR TEAM OF MESSRS. KOISSER AND UTKAN CALLED ON AMBASSADOR HUMMEL SEPTEMBER 9 TO SHARE RESULTS OF THEIR STUDY OF THE AFGHAN REFUGEE SITUATION IN PAKISTAN.

3. TEAM ADVISES TOTAL OF AFGHAN REFUGEES HERE NOW APPROACHES 185,000 WITH ABOUT 140,000 ON NWFP AND 45,000 IN BALUCHISTAN. KOISSER AND UTKAN HAD JUST RETURNED FROM BALUCHISTAN WHERE THEY TOURED CAMPS BEING OPERATED IN THAT PROVINCE.

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THEY REMARKED THE PROBLEMS THERE SEEM LESS SEVERE THAN IN NWFP. PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE GREATER AVAILABILITY OF LAND AND SMALLER INDIGENOUS POPULATION IN THAT PROVINCE, BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE INFLUX OF AFGHANS IS MUCH SLOWER THERE THAN FARTHER NORTH. THE CAMPS IN BALUCHISTAN HAVE BEEN WELL LOCATED AND AWAY FROM THE FRONTIER AND SMALLER CAMPS HAVE BEEN CONSOLIDATED INTO MORE PRACTICAL GROUPINGS WHERE RELIEF CAN MORE EASILY BE ADMINISTERED. THE REFUGEES, HOWEVER, HAVE BROUGHT WITH THEM HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF THEIR LIVESTOCK WHICH WILL SOON CONSUME THE FODDER SUPPLY IN THE AREA OF THE CAMPS AND IN THE TRIBAL AREAS WHERE THE MAJORITY OF THE REFUGEES ARE CAMPED.

THE UNHCR OFFICIALS SAID THE REFUGEES ARE IN FAIRLY GOOD CONDITION NOW BUT THAT THE HEALTH AND SANITATION SITUATION WILL DETERIORATE RAPIDLY. MALNUTRITION AMONG CHILDREN IS BEGINNING AND, TO AVOID EPIDEMICS, BOTH FEEDING AND HEALTH PROGRAMS MUST BE INSTITUTED QUICKLY. FOR THE FORMER, KOISSER SAYS, WORLD FOOD PROGRAM CAN INITIATE A 180-DAY EMERGENCY PROJECT AND BEGIN DISTRIBUTING WHEAT FLOUR, OIL AND MILK WITHIN A FEW WEEKS. KOISSER ACKNOWLEDGED HAVING \$200,000 AT HIS DISPOSAL WITH WHICH HE PLANS TO START PROVIDING SHELTER AND BLANKETS VERY SOON AND UNICEF CAN HAVE A MEDICAL PROGRAM STARTED. LIKEWISE, WITHIN TWO OR THREE

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WEEKS. ALL THESE PROGRAMS CAN-ND-AND WILL--START PRIOR TO THE UNHCR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING EARLY IN OCTOBER.

KOISSER AND UTKAN HAVE DRAFTED AN INITIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNHCR AND GOP WHICH THEY EXPECT TO BE SIGNED BEFORE THEIR RETURN TO GENEVA ON SEPTEMBER 11. A SECOND AGREEMENT WILL BE REQUIRED AFTER THE UNHCR EXCOM APPROVES THE TEAM'S REPORT EARLY IN OCTOBER. (KOISSER AND UTKAN SEEM FULLY CONFIDENT THAT THE ORGANIZATION WILL APPROVE THEIR OUTLINED PROGRAM.)

6. JUST PRIOR TO THE EXCOM MEETING, KOISSER SAYS, THE UNHCR WILL BEGIN SOLICITING "OUR REGULAR DONORS" FOR PLEDGES TO THIS RELIEF EFFORT. WHILE TEAM DID NOT PUT PRICE TAG ON OPERATION, THEY POINTED OUT GOP CLAIMS TO HAVE SPENT \$50 MILLION ON RELIEF SO FAR AND THAT PROBLEM IS GROWING DAILY.

7. UNHCR TEAM WAS APPRECIATIVE OF AMBASSADOR HUMMEL'S OFFER TO REPORT THEIR DEBRIEFING AND TO ALERT USG AUTHORITIES OF IMMINENT REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE.

8. COMMENT: IN ANSWER TO QUESTION, KOISSER SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY RECENT FORMAL APPROACH TO UNHCR BY AFGHAN GOVERNMENT (ORA) (REFTEL C). IN ANY CASE, HE SAID, ANY OBJECTION THEY HAVE TO THE PLANNED PROGRAM WOULD NOT AFFECT THE UNHCR HUMANITARIAN OBLIGATIONS TO AID THE REFUGEES. THE

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DRA MAY BE PERMITTED TO SIT IN AS OBSERVERS AT THE EXCOM. HE SUGGESTED. BUT WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO IMPOSE POLITICAL OBJECTIONS TO THE RELIEF EFFORT. HE COMPARED POSSIBLE DRA INVOLVEMENT IN THIS QUESTION TO THE PRC'S ATTEMPT TO AFFECT VIETNAMESE RELIEF ON POLITICAL GROUNDS--AN ATTEMPT GIVEN SHORT SHRIFT BY THE UNHCR. END COMMENT.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT SHOULD (A) EARMARK PROMPT FUNDING CONTRIBUTION TO UNHCR FOR AFGHAN REFUGEE PROGRAMS IN UPCOMING FY 1980. AND (B) SEE
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*THAT DEPARTMENT BUDGET REQUEST FOR FY 1981 CONTAINS PRO-
VISION FOR FURTHER FUNDING.
*HUMMEL

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